

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2167

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0447

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PORS, NL

SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY IMPASSE CONTINUES

REF : PARAMARIBO 0410

1. NPK COALITION LOSS OF ASSURED GOVERNING MAJORITY IN STATEN (PARLIAMENT), CAUSED BY DEFECTION OF THREE NPS MEMBERS (REFTEL), CONTINUES CRIPPLE ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT CLEAR SOLUTION IN SIGHT. DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND OPPOSITION LEADERS INDICATE IMPASSE COULD DRAG ON FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AS COALITION MANEUVERS TO RETAIN CONTROL OF GOS THROUGH INDEPENDENCE.

2. LACK OF WORKABLE MAJORITY UNDERLINED AT OFFICIAL OPENING OF '75-'76 STATEN BY GOVERNOR ON SEPT 1 WHEN OPPOSITION INDIAN-LED VHP WALKED OUT, JOINED BY NPS FRACTION MEMBER LIESDEK-CLARKE. WITH TWO OTHER NPS DEFECTORS (REFTEL) ABSENT, QUORUM LACKING AND MIN PRES ARRON UNABLE PRESENT ANNUAL BUDGET FOR DEBATE, AS IS CUSTOM. FRUSTRATION OF NPK AND ARRON NOW FOCUSED PRINCIPALLY ON MRS. LIESDEK, WHO UNDER CONTINUOUS AND HEAVY PRESSURE REJOIN COALITION AND PROVIDE MAJORITY OF
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ONE. LACKING THIS, STATEN BUSINESS AT STANDSTILL AS OPPOSITION

CONTINUES EFFORT FORCE CONCESSIONS ON CONSTITUTION, CIS,
AND POLICY PARTICIPATION FROM GOS.

3. ALTHOUGH NPK LEADERSHIP HAS PREVAILED UPON ECONMIN BRUMA TO ACQUIESCE IN PERMITTING PRIVATE IMPORTATION OF GOODS PREVIOUSLY IMPORTED EXCLUSIVELY BY STATE PURCHASING AND DISTRIBUTION AGENCY (CIS), CHINESE OPPOSITION TO WHICH CAUSED DEFECTION NPS STATEN MEMBER LIE KON FONG, THESE CONCESSIONS NOT YET SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR OR SWEEPING TO BRING LIE BACK INTO FOLD. CHINESE, HOWEVER, ARE WAIVERING SINCE COMMUNITY LEADERS HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM OF NPK LEADERSHIP AND HAVE TRADITIONALLY AVOIDED POLITICAL LIMELIGHT.

4. CONSENSUS AMONG GOVERNOR, MODERATE CABINET MEMBERS, OTHER RELATIVELY BIPARTISAN-MINDED POLITICAL FIGURES HAS SLOWLY FORMED FAVORING A "NATIONAL" CABINET WHOSE MAIN BUSINESS WOULD BE ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE MEASURES NECESSARY TO ORDERLY ADVENT OF INDEPENDENCE ON NOV 25TH. (DEPUTY MINPRES VAN GENDEREN PLANS OFFER HIS SEAT IN THAT CAUSE.) NATIONAL ELECTIONS WOULD THEN BE HELD A FEW MONTHS AFTERWARD.

6. HOWEVER, BRUMA, HEAD OF LEFTIST PNR MEMBER OF COALITION, HAS STRONGLY OPPOSED THIS PLAN, REFUSING SIT WITH ARCH-ENEMIES FROM VHP, AND PERHAPS SEEING THIS AS THE BEGINNING OF UNWANTED COOPERATION BETWEEN NPS AND VHP. MINPRES ARRON TENDS SUPPORT BRUMA, ASSERTING THAT NPK HAS SUFFICIENT BACKING AMONG POPULATION TO IGNORE PARLIAMENTARY CRISIS AND THAT COALITION CAN SOMEHOW MUDDLE THROUGH TOWARD INDEPENDENCE AS IS, IF NECESSARY, MEANWHILE PLACING MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON DEFECTORS TO RETURN TO FOLD IN TIME TO PERFORM LEGALLY REQUIRED LEGISLATIVE CHORES BEFORE NOV 25.

7. ONLY AREAS IN WHICH MOST FACTIONS OF NPK SEEM IN AGREEMENT AT THIS STAGE ARE DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN NOV 25 AS INDEPENDENCE DATE AND IMPOSSIBILITY OF ORGANIZING NEW ELECTIONS TO RENEW MANDATE BETWEEN NOW AND THEN. ELECTIONS, MOREOVER, WOULD EXACERBATE PRESENT TENSIONS AND FURTHER INCREASE RACIAL POLARIZATION.

8. COMMENT: GIVEN OPPOSITION OF TWO STRONGEST MEMBERS OF COALITION
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TIONS TO SHARING "NATIONAL" CABINET WITH VHP, APPEARS MOST REASONABLE AND STATESMANLIKE APPROACH TO RESOLVING IMPASSE IS UNLIKELY TO BE ADOPTED WITHOUT HEAVY PRESSURE FROM DUTCH GOVERNMENT. GON CONCERNED WITH OWN IMAGE IF REINS TURNED OVER TO MALFUNCTIONING GOS ON NOV 25, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO LEGAL BAR TO GON SIMPLY AMENDING REALM CHARTER UNILATERALLY TO SEVER THE RELATIONSHIP. IN REFUSING SIT WITH VHP, BRUMA POSSIBLY IMPLYING THAT IF VHP COMES IN, HE WILL LEAD PNR OUT WITH UNSPOKEN

THREAT THAT CIVIL DISTURBANCES MIGHT ENSUE. THIS OF COURSE
DEEPLY IMPRESSES ARRON, DETERMINED COME WHAT MAY TO BE IN
MINISTER PRESIDENT'S CHAIR WHEN NOV 25TH DAWNS.

9. STRONGEST POSSIBILITY AT THIS WRITING REMAINS PATCHING UP
THE NPK, PLUGGING THE LEAKS, TINKERING AND TALKING UNTIL THE
GREAT DAY ARRIVES.

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